

From: Alex Clayton [alexrcclayton@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2008 12:12 PM

To: Context, DeltaVision@CALFED

Subject: Comments on Delta Vision Strategic Plan Third Staff Draft

Hello,

I support a great deal of the Delta Vision Strategic Plan Third Staff Draft, including the conservation, ecosystem restoration, improvement of water quality, stormwater management, designation of the Delta as "unique and valued", and land use & water planning coordination. However, I think there is also a need to focus on permanent conservation measures (times of day to water, specific targets per person/family [not mandates, but driven through tiered pricing, as mentioned], etc.) and increased public outreach on the importance of water/conservation, basic understanding of the water conveyance system, and recognition of the Delta's significance. Everyday citizens need opportunities to be well informed about the realities of water in California, including where we've been where we are and where we need to go (and why).

The concept that "islands or tracts that are in low-value private uses and cannot afford levee maintenance and repairs will eventually revert to wetlands or open water habitat" is a welcome one. Furthering that idea, I believe it would be beneficial to target a string of these islands to create a contiguous chain of wetlands to promote a healthy ecosystem and provide a buffer to potential future levee failures in the wake of a catastrophic event (e.g., major earthquake).

Overall, this is certainly a well-thought out effort to create a sustainable management framework for ensuring the co-equal goals of ecosystem restoration and reliable water supply are met. Where CALFED was partially successful, this effort needs to ensure that we have a comprehensive and achievable plan going forward to sustainably manage our precious aquatic resources in the Delta and across the entire state for the benefit of all life in California.

Regards,
Alexander Clayton
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